Por. The qualitie of mercy is not ſtraind,
It droppeth as the gentle raine from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice bleſt,
It bleſſeth him that gives, and him that takes.
Tis mightieſt in the mightieſt, it becomes
The throned Monarch better then his Crowne.
His ſcepter ſhewes the force of temporall power,
The attribute to awe and majeſtie,
Wherein doth ſit the dread and feare of Kings:
But mercy is above this ſceptred ſway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of Kings,
It is an attribute to God himſelfe;
And earthly power doth then ſhew likeſt gods,
When mercy ſeaſons juſtice: therefore Jew,
Though juſtice be thy plea, conſider this,
That in the courſe of juſtice none of us
Should ſee ſalvation: we do pray for mercy,
And that ſame prayer, doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy. I have ſpoke thus much
To mittigate the juſtice of thy plea,
Which if thou follow, this ſtrict Court of *Venice*
Muſt needs give ſentence 'gainſt the Merchant there.

Shy. My deeds upon my head, I crave the Law,
The penalty and forfeit of my Bond:

Por. Is he not able to diſcharge the money?

Baſſ. Yes, here I tender it for him in the Court,
Yea, twice the ſumme if that will not ſuffice,
I will be bound to pay it ten times ore
On forfeit on my hands, my head, my heart;
If this will not ſuffice, it muſt appeare
That malice beares down truth. And I beſeech you
Wreſt once the Law to your authority,
To do a great right, do a little wrong,
And curbe this cruell Devill of his will.

Por. It muſt not be, there is no power in *Venice*
Can alter a Decree eſtabliſhed:
'Twill be recorded for a precedent,
And many an errour by the ſame example

Will ruſh into the ſtate, it cannot

Shy. A *Daniel* come to judge

O wiſe young Judge, how I do

Por. I pray you let me looke

Shy. Here 'tis moſt reverend

Por. Shylocke, there's thrice t

Shy. An oath, an oath, I have

Shall I lay perjury upon my ſoul

No. not for *Venice*.

Por. Why this Bond is forfei

And lawfully by this the Jew m

A pound of fleſh, to be by him c

Neereſt the Merchants heart: b

Take thrice thy money, bid me

Shy. When it is paid accordi

It doth appeare you are a worth

You know the law, your expoſi

Hath been moſt found: I charg

Whereof you are a well deſerv

Proceed to judgement: by my

There is no power in the tongu

To alter me, I ſtay here on my

Ant. Moſt heartily I do beſ

To give the judgement.

Por. Why than thus it is,

You muſt prepare your boſome

Shy. O noble judge, O excel

Por. For the intent and purp

Hath full relation to the penalty

Which here appeareth due upo

Iew. Tis very true: O wiſe

How much more elder art tho

Por. Therefore lay bare you

Iew. I, his breaſt,

So ſayes the Bond, doth it not

Neereſt his heart, thoſe are the

Por. It is ſo, are there ballanc

Iew. I have them ready.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22298) LONDON, 1637 NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLA